

## *Palau Islands*

### *Trip Information*

**Embarkation:** Sam's Tours Palau, Koror

**Disembarkation:** Sam's Tours Palau, Koror

**Arrival Airport:** Koror (ROR)

**Departure Airport:** Koror (ROR)

### *Flights, Hotels, Transfers and Excursions*

Traveling within the Republic of Palau is exceptionally easy when you book with Siren Fleet. From booking hotel accommodations to land or Rock Island sightseeing tours, we can arrange everything for before or after your trip. The trip price includes transfer between the airport to Siren Fleet on the day of embarkation and on the day of disembarkation. If staying at a hotel in Koror, your hotel price includes transfers and will be arranged by the hotel.

#### **Advice on International Flights**

There are several international flight routes into Koror, Palau. The most commonly served is that operated by United Airlines via Guam or Manila. There are daily flights from Guam, and twice weekly direct flights from Manila. Air China operate direct flights from Taipei whilst Korean Airlines have scheduled flights from Incheon, South Korea. Non-US citizens flying via Guam are advised they will need to obtain a "transit visa" from the US immigration prior to boarding.

#### **Insurance**

Siren Fleet strongly recommend that all guests carry full travel and cancellation insurance as we cannot be held liable for delays which occur during the cruise, nor any delays or cancellations of the flights, accommodation, tours & transfers we organise on your behalf.

Siren Fleet works in partnership with DiveAssure and can offer you a selection of competitively priced dive and travel insurance policies, including short term and multiple trip policies. These policies can also be purchased with a 'Liveaboard Rider' that covers you in the event of missing your liveaboard departure due to missed connection, lost

diving days due to a number of reasons (including accident to another passenger) requiring the boat to abort diving, mechanical breakdown, air supply failure, changes or cancellations due to weather and more. Please see our webpage at [www.sirenfleet.com/insurance.html](http://www.sirenfleet.com/insurance.html) or contact our reservations team at [info@sirenfleet.com](mailto:info@sirenfleet.com) for more information.

## *General Information*

### **Visa and Passports**

All visitors are required to have a current passport and a return airline ticket, from their country of origin, to travel to Palau. Please make sure your passport is valid for at least 6 months from date of entry into Palau. Citizens of the United States are granted a 1 year visa upon arrival while passport holders of most other western countries obtain a 30 day tourist -visa on arrival at no extra charge. Please be sure to check the appropriate consulate to ensure you have the proper documentation and always check your passport and visa requirements. For updates and changes please visit the Palau Visitors Authority website [www.visit-palau.com](http://www.visit-palau.com) or email the government immigration authority at [imm@palaunet.com](mailto:imm@palaunet.com).

### **Time Zone**

The local time in the Republic of Palau is +9 hours UMC (GMT).

### **Money Matters**

The US Dollar is the official currency of Palau. The majority of established hotels, shops and restaurants accept major credit cards or travelers checks. Occasionally smaller, family-run business will only accept cash. There are several US operated banks and plenty of ATMs so cash is readily accessible, however the rate of exchange is very poor and guests would be advised to change money prior to arrival in Palau.

### **Airport Terminal Fee**

A departure tax of \$20.00 USD and a \$30.00 "Green Fee" is required for each person departing Palau. The "Green Fee" is used to fund Palau's Protected Area Network's for

conservation purposes. The \$50.00 USD is required to be paid in cash prior to exiting the ticketing area. There is an ATM at the airport in case you forget.

### **Health**

Health care is readily available in Palau. The Belau National Hospital is a professionally staffed hospital with an experienced barotraumas team. It is situated in the capital city of Koror along with several other private health clinics. To prevent stomach ailments we recommend travelers follow normal precautions with food and drink bottled water only. Please consult your doctor or nearest health care professional for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure. Visitors arriving from countries which are affected by Cholera or Yellow Fever must show proof of immunization upon arrival.

### **Language and Religion**

Palauan and English are the official languages of the Republic of Palau and both are widely spoken. Tagalog, Japanese and Mandarin are also quite common. The population is predominantly Christian – with 70% following either the Roman Catholic or Protestant faiths. Modekngei is a mix of Christianity and ancient Palauan customs practiced by around 10% of the population. Islam and Judaism are also found in Palau.

### **Climate and Weather**

Palau is 7 degrees north of the equator and enjoys a warm tropical climate year round. Temperatures average 27°C (82°F) while water temperatures average a pleasant 27°C (82°F) as well. As a tropical island Palau is subject to rainfall throughout the year though more frequently between July and October. Diving, however, is excellent year around with high season considered to be November through May.

### **Water Temperature and Exposure Suits**

The warm tropical waters of Palau are pleasant throughout the year averaging 27°C (82°F). Most guests find that a 3mm wetsuit or shorty is suitable and many dive with just a skin. For guests who tend to get cold easily, especially after repetitive dives, we recommend bringing whatever you feel most comfortable in.

## *Life On Board*

### **Food and Drink**

All Siren Fleet yachts provide guests with a choice of International and Asian cuisine served buffet style in the outdoor dining area. We cater to special dietary requirements; please simply inform our reservations team prior to your trip to ensure we have plenty of dishes to suit your needs. A range of carbonated soft drinks, fruit juices, black, green and herbal teas are commonly available as well as instant and fresh brewed coffee. A selection of fresh fruit is readily available, as well as some "naughty" treats should you feel hunger in between meal times. Local lager (beer) is provided free of charge but guests may also select wine or spirits from our cocktail bar for an additional fee.

### **Clothing and Footwear**

Dress on board our yachts is very casual and most guests feel comfortable in little more than swim wear, shorts and t-shirts. A sweater is advised for cooler nights, particularly after multiple dives. Each yacht is also equipped with laundry facilities and your housekeeper is more than happy to launder your clothes during the trip. A nominal fee of 0.50 Euro is charged per item irrespective of size/weight. We do request that guests respect the wishes of others by donning clothing for meal times. Most guests prefer bare feet on board the yacht; however island visits may require sturdy sandals or cross-trainers.

### **Electricity**

On board our yacht we have both 220V and 110V with 2 round pin sockets, European style. There are universal adapters available however we do advise guests to bring their own to ensure you have the amount necessary.

### **Smoking**

Smoking on board is permitted in designated (outdoor) areas. Guests are kindly requested to refrain from smoking in the outdoor dining areas during meal times.



## *Safety On Board*

### **Emergency Management**

All Siren Fleet crew members undergo rigorous training in emergency management procedures. A thorough yacht safety briefing will be provided by your cruise director at the start of your trip during which all guests will be requested to participate in a life jacket drill. Further practice scenarios may be performed during your cruise to assist our crew in keeping their skills sharp.

### **Emergency Equipment**

Each yacht is equipped with modern safety features such as automated life rafts, EPIRB, satellite communication and emergency pumps. Each guest will be offered the optional rental of a Nautilus Lifeline, which can be used to communicate your location to the yacht or coast guard, in the unlikely event you find yourself drifted away from your liveaboard.

### **First Aid**

Siren Fleet liveaboards are equipped with a fully stocked medical first aid kit for treating minor injuries and ailments as well as for assisting trained medical professionals in remote locations. Each yacht has a full complement of medical grade oxygen which can be administered to divers through DAN kits or unit specific attachments. You will also find on board an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) which has been proven to greatly increase the survival rate in the eventuality of cardiac fibrillation.

Our dive teams are all qualified emergency responders. Should you feel unwell at any point during your cruise, please seek the advice of your cruise director who will be able to assist you.

### **Staying Connected**

We regret that we are unable to provide an internet service on board Siren Fleet yachts. Many of our trips are in remote locations and internet service is intermittent at best. Most cell or mobile phones which have 'roaming' will function during your cruise, however service signal strength can be very weak and some areas of your cruise may not be covered at all. The cost of calls made is determined by your service provider.

Our out of office contact numbers can be found below, should your family need to contact you during the cruise, however this number is reserved for emergencies only.

## *Payments On board*

### **Marine Park and Port Fees**

The marine park and port fees are dependent on trip duration and must be paid prior to departure:

6/7 nights Palau Islands – 200 US\$ per person

10 nights Palau Islands – 270 US\$ per person

### **Optional Extras**

Siren Fleet yachts offer a range of services to make your stay on board even more enjoyable. We offer beach visits and the use of kayaks throughout your cruise free of charge. The following services are also available for an additional fee:

1 Hour Thai style or Oil Relaxation Massage

Wine (750ml bottle)

Selection of Spirits and Cocktails

Laundry

Dive Courses

Torch & Dive Computer Rental

Siren Fleet Merchandise

All prices are given on board in US\$ however we also accept cash payment in Euro, GBP & AUD. Due to banking restrictions, the exchange rates are extremely unfavorable and so we advise that guests bring along enough USD to cover their expenses. We are pleased to accept payment by credit card for which there is a 3.5% surcharge.

Banking facilities in Koror are limited, therefore guests are advised to bring between 300-400US\$, additional to marine park & port fees, for any incidental expenses.

### **Tipping**

At Siren Fleet we believe that tipping is a matter of personal choice. Should you feel that your crew has made your holiday extra special then a tip is always appreciated. An envelope will be provided for your convenience by your cruise director and gratuities then divided equally amongst all the crew, including the captain and dive guides.

## *Diving Information*

### **Guests' Level of Diving**

Siren Fleet welcomes everyone from non-divers to seasoned divers. Each destination has different diving conditions based on the season and time of the trip. Whilst all of our trips are suitable for each and every experience level, there may be some dives offered that are not suitable for beginners. Your cruise director will be able to advise you whilst on board however if you have concerns regarding the conditions of the destination you wish to visit then please contact your agent or the Siren Fleet reservations team.

### **Scuba Equipment**

Since some of the domestic airline carriers in the regions we operate have strict check-in luggage limits, all Siren Fleet liveboards provide most rental equipment free of charge. All trips include:

Aqua Lung Wave BCD – not weight-integrated

Aqua Lung Calypso Regulator - complete with alternate air source and depth/pressure gauge console

Wetsuits - 3mm shorty

Mask

Fins - full foot or open heel and boots depending on destination

12 litre tanks (15 litre tanks by special request and depending on availability)

Weight belt and weights

### **Equipment Rental**

The following equipment is available for rental at an extra charge of 5US\$ per day.

Underwater torch

Dive computer\*

\* Please note that the use of a dive computer is compulsory on our yachts. For your safety, Siren Fleet asks all guests to always dive within the limits of their dive computer and make a safety stop at the end of each dive.

### **Re-breather Diving**

Each of the Siren Fleet yachts is equipped for the re-breather diver. Booster pumps are installed to ensure your tanks can be filled to 135bars/2000psi and we have stage tanks available for your use. We can also facilitate the purchase of sofno-lime scrubber though there are additional charges for both this and O2. Charges are dependent on quantity used.

Pre-booking of any re-breather supplies are essential to guarantee availability for you. Please contact our reservations team to place your order and for up-to-date prices.

### **Underwater Photography and Videography**

Our yachts offer specialised features for underwater photographers and videographers. These include:

Indoor and outdoor work stations for the preparation and maintenance of cameras

Individual storage drawers for cameras and peripheral items

Large rinsing tanks with fresh water changed frequently

Our crews are thoroughly trained in the handling of delicate camera equipment and will bring your cameras to/from the tenders for you.



## *Diving Health*

### **Flying After Diving**

Current studies show that you should wait at least 18 hours after multiple repetitive dives before you fly. Please have this in mind before you book your onwards international or domestic flights.

### **Diving Insurance**

Diving insurance is mandatory aboard all Siren Fleet yachts, irrespective of destination. Your insurance must cover all of your scuba diving and snorkeling activities, including the costs for recompression chamber treatment and emergency air evacuation.

Whilst many general travel insurance companies will cover scuba diving activities they often fall short on recompression treatment or evacuation. Siren Fleet strongly recommends purchasing diving-specific insurance and is working with Dive Assure to offer policies that cover everything our guests need. You can find more details at the following link on our website:

[www.sirenfleet.com/insurance.html](http://www.sirenfleet.com/insurance.html)

Siren Fleet can offer short-term diving insurance coverage (1-4 weeks) though we advise that requests must be made to our reservations team at least 1 week prior to your cruise departure date to ensure adequate time for arrangements.

### **Diving Emergencies**

There is a recompression chamber located in Koror that is able to provide emergency treatment for decompression illness in the unlikely event of an accident. We require that all guests dive well within recreational dive limits and follow dive guides' instructions.

## FAQ's

If there are any questions that have not been answered then please visit our website at [www.sirenfleet.com/about-us/faqs](http://www.sirenfleet.com/about-us/faqs) or email us at [info@sirenfleet.com](mailto:info@sirenfleet.com) and our team will assist you.

## Head Office

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## *What to Bring*

The following is a check list of items that you should ensure to bring with you for your trip aboard a Siren Fleet Liveaboard.

### **Passport**

6 month validity & at least 2 empty pages for visa stickers and stamps

### **Travel Documents**

Flight tickets- International & Domestic; hotel booking; excursions

### **Cash & Credit Card for emergencies**

Recommended amount (additional to park & port fees) – 300-400US\$  
Airport Departure Tax in local currency

### **Diving Certification & Logbook**

Including Nitrox Card if certified & intending to use Nitrox

### **Travel and Diving Insurance Documents**

To include emergency medical evacuation

### **Essential Diving Items**

Dive computer with full battery

### **Toiletries & Medications**

Including sunscreen & insect repellent  
Inform booking team of medical conditions

### **Essential Clothing Items**

Swim wear, hat and lightweight jacket

***Guests are strongly advised to carry essential items in hand luggage in case of lost or delayed luggage through International or Domestic Flights.***



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